

# THE MISSION OF JESUS

## EPISODE 4: SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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#### Main Points

*Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:*

- We serve God by serving others
- As we go through life, God wants us to do good and to be a blessing to others
- Serving others is not complicated. We serve others by taking time and interest in them, and by helping to meet practical needs they have.

### EXPLORING THE STORY

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#### ◀ Look Back

*Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:*

#### 1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

#### 2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

#### 3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ So far... we've seen that Jesus' mission involved:

- 1) Proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was coming to Earth,
- 2) Making disciples who would live for him on the Earth, and
- 3) Building his church – the people of God joined together as family and working together for his purposes

## ▲ Look Up

*Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.*

### 4. Setting the Stage

“ While Jesus' work was profound and spiritual it was also simple and practical. As he traveled and taught, he met many people who had needs. Jesus never turned down a request for help. He saw needs and met them. He healed the eyes of the blind man; he did not heal his feet. He healed the leper of his skin disease; he did not offer to turn water into wine for him.

As we read these stories, be thinking about this:

- What does it mean to serve our neighbors?

### 5. Read **Acts 10.38** and then discuss:

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- What do you learn about Jesus in this verse?
- Although he was healing people in miraculous ways, it says that Jesus was “doing good”. What does this teach you about what it means to serve your neighbor?

### Read **Luke 10.25-37** and then discuss:

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- Why did the man ask Jesus his original question? (vs. 25)
- Why did he ask his second question? (vs. 28)
- Is it surprising that the priest and Levite passed by the wounded man without stopping to help him? Why or why not?
- Did the Samaritan man help the wounded man in a miraculous way? What did he do to prove himself a neighbor? (vs. 33-36)
- How does Jesus want this story to change the way we live?

## ► Look Ahead

*Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.*

### 6. Implications and Applications

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- What did today's lesson teach you about how serving others is part of Jesus' mission?
- Who is someone you know who has a need that you can help meet right now?
- What is one thing you will do this week to obey what you learned from today's lesson?

### 7. Closing Prayer